

## The Seven Seals

### REVELATION 6

All seven Seals have now been broken, and the sealed scroll can be rolled open for the revealing of God's purposes in this end-time. The Seal developments extend through the end of this age and, as with many other portions of the Word of God, they have a double fulfillment. One fulfillment covers the period from the days of the increasing alignment of the church function with the powers of state in the fourth century to the end of our age. The other is the short-term, end-time fulfillment beginning in the 1930's. Always God conforms all things to the basic patterns of truth recorded in His Word.

The Seals are opened individually and the judgments described under the Seals are those initiated with each opening. Then the forces released at each specific opening continue to develop through to the end of the age. God's plan is progressive, and in His mercy He continues to give as much opportunity as possible for all people to turn to Jesus Christ. As each Seal is broken, the writing on that layer of paper wound onto the scroll can be read. As the next Seal within is broken, more is revealed of the writing under that opened Seal. And in a relatively short period of time, all seven Seals are broken and the Scroll fully unrolled. The judgments begin sequentially, but then they continue to develop simultaneously.

: 1-2 When the first Seal was opened, John heard one of the four living creatures close to God's Throne, call out, "Come." Since John was already there, the call is to all now in the Church to go out to observe symbolically a certain geographical area where we should see what was then to unfold on the stage of history. The first four Seals brought forth the symbolism of horses. In the Bible, a horse pictures the spirit of war and the power to make war (*Joel 2:2-4*), and these four horses and riders are for war and destruction. It necessarily proposes a geographical setting. The opening of the first Seal revealed a white horse with a rider who had a bow, and a crown was given to him. This white horse speaks of the power of war or conflict and conquest with a religious motivation. The rider is given a bow and crowned to go out conquering and to conquer. This pictures the rider's *desire* to go out and conquer, but he was not to fully realize the desired goal. The bow is an instrument of war, but sometimes the bow is also linked with lies and deceits and false promises (*Ps. 78:57, Jer. 9:3*).

Historically, this is the Church-militant, the Church which allied itself with military government and power to further its cause, with the excuse that its motive was to bring the Christian religion to its conquered foes. Since the days when the Church first apostatized and went into the State, committing fornication with kings and rulers and making the "flesh" its arm, it has sought to further its interests by the

power of the sword or bow. Millions have been slain down through this age by the Church-militant, as it has taken advantage of force and conquest, in alliance with government power. This has been the white horse and its rider going forth through history.

In the end-time application, the white horse began when Mussolini, in a workable understanding with the Vatican in 1935, went forth conquering and to conquer. He did not gain all of his objectives when he embarked on his expansionist dreams, but the Seal was broken in its end-time application and the effects continue to the end. Neither will the Roman Catholic ambition to bring the entire world under its ecclesiastical rule be attained, regardless of motives or techniques. But the forces here unleashed are those helping to gather the nations into "Armageddon," and the stage is being set for titanic conflict as the forces bringing judgment are set in motion.

:3 John heard a call a second time to "Come," and we are to be carried symbolically to view another area of the world and see other forces for judgment set in motion.

:4 The second horse is red, and flaming red is one of the colors of Satan. The rider was empowered to take peace from the earth so that men would slaughter one another, and he was given a great sword. There is but one force that holds the responsibility for *continually* taking peace from the earth ever since it raised its ugly head. The second Seal was opened when Red Russia, began to foment revolution and division in *other* countries (1935-36). This is why the rider of the red horse was given a great sword. The sword is a symbol of division through revolution, as well as through outright attack, resulting in much bloodshed. It was Stalin to whom Churchill gave probably the most expensive sword ever gifted. Dictator Stalin set the red horse fully in motion and the communist revolution has continued at different times and places to foment strife, conflict and warfare even into our present times. The pattern continues to the end. The red horse rider has been given the power to take peace from the earth so there will be no way to live in peaceful "coexistence" with world socialism/communism. Nations will either stand up and fight or be conquered. There will be peace no more until the Prince of Peace comes and the red horse rider is no more. As the beast system gains ascendancy in the earth, and as the false prophet reorganizes the United Nations into becoming the system's front, there will be people and nations which will not wholly submit, and there will be continuous bloodshed throughout this reign of terror.

:5 When the third Seal was opened, John again heard an invitation to come, so we might see a symbolic representation of yet another geographical area of the world. We are then shown a black horse and rider, who had a set of balances in his hand. And John heard a voice saying, "*A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny, and see that you do not hurt the oil and the wine.*" In the same period of time which saw the ascendancy of Mussolini and Stalin, another violent dictator arose to plunge the nations into conflict, releasing forces which have helped to pave the way for the final "Armageddon" of nations.

German compulsory military training became law in 1935, and the Rome-Berlin Axis was formed in 1936. In Hitler's strictly regimented social system, black became the predominant emblem color of Germany. We have seen since World War

II how “national socialism,” as it was practiced under Hitler with its one-man tyranny and its super-racism, has evolved into internationally oriented socialist statism in many countries. The balances in the rider’s hand, plus the reference in *verse 6* to measures and prices, indicate the extent to which the economy and the means of livelihood were completely controlled by rationing of all resources, channelling them into munitions of war. The controls were even more severe in the occupied countries, where strenuous toil made only bare subsistence possible, so that the conquered nations might be made subservient to the Nazi war effort.

The incipient fulfillment of these shortages was in Hitler’s Germany, but in the final manifestation, that of the false prophet who heads the beast of World Government, there is to be the more complete fulfillment. The balances portray the strict rationing which will be in effect throughout the world, because of food shortages. Nations having more will be required to share with those having little. The extreme economic inflation of that day is shown by the fact that the penny or denarius was the standard day’s wage and the measure was about one quart.

In the coming days of extreme world crisis, inflated money and soaring prices will bring about conditions such that the income from a day’s labor for many will mean little more than a bare subsistence. But the inspired record adds assurance, *“hurt not the oil and the wine.”* Regardless of the difficult times, the strife, war, bloodshed, privation and also much persecution of those who will not submit to the beast system, those who are *fully* Christ’s will not be harmed. The oil, 100-fold Christians, and the wine, 60-fold Christians (*Matt. 13:23*), will have His absolute protection (*Ps. 91*). Of these, only those whose personal commitment includes laying down their lives for the sake of the Gospel will suffer harm of any kind, and that only when their time arrives.

Before considering the final horse and rider, we should probably see the significance of the first three as they relate to the developing world scene. In one form or another, the forces set in motion by the opening of the Seals continue to the end of the age. These three horses and their riders of our period of history are the end-time spirits of dictatorship of fascism, communism and socialism. Each has a militant spirit. Each is ridden by a rider who hides his true nature. These feature central government control over all phases of living in the nation, with promises of solving all the people’s problems and preventing other problems from developing. Peace and plenty are promised as a material imitation of Christ’s spiritual promises, but in deceit and under the threat of force.

First come the glowing promises. Then it becomes apparent there is a barb on the “hook” and it is impossible to withdraw. Then comes economic unbalance, then conflict and chaos, then ruthless suppression and then more conflict and chaos. The end-time spirit of dictatorship emphasizes the “deifying” of the powers of autocratic rule. These governments recognize no rights of the individual as divinely given by the Creator, and they are destructive of personal responsibility before God. They breed moral degeneration and spiritual insipidity and they lead to inevitable conflict and chaos. Not being of God, they cannot last. Either they collapse under their own perverted weight in the midst of much bloodshed, or they die in agonizing conflict with each other.

With reference to the gathering of the nations to Armageddon, it is written that

there were three unclean spirits like frogs which issued from the mouth of the dragon, from the mouth of the beast and from the mouth of the false prophet (*Rev. 16:13-14*). These are foundational and correspond to the first three horses and their riders. Respectively they are Fascism in a close relationship to an authoritarian church, Communism and National Socialism. Rome was the seat of the dragon, Moscow was the home of the seat of the beast, and Berlin was the dwelling place of the false prophet.

These three horses and riders are pictured as the spirits of demons working signs, which go forth to the rulers all over the world to gather them to the battle of that great Day of God Almighty. Israel is to be seen separate from the nations, but Israel will be the match which ignites Armageddon. However, the demon or spirit power is not confined to an initial personification in one individual, but continues after he is removed from the scene. The same powers initially manifested in Mussolini, Stalin and Hitler continue in modified forms with varying degrees of influence, and they continue to create instability, power struggle and ideological conflict which eventually lead to all-out war. Satan first invades the Church to make it ineffective for Jesus Christ. Then he establishes his own religion (best exemplified by the ideology of communism); then he develops a helper to spread it (the false prophet).

:7 At the opening of the fourth Seal, John heard the summons once more to "Come" to see another portion of the earth's surface in symbolism.

:8 He then saw a pale horse, black and blue, as if bruised, and its rider's name was Death, and another by the name of Hades followed closely. Power and authority is given these two over the one-fourth part of the earth to kill men with sword and with famine and with plague and with wild beasts of the earth. During the same general time period of the breaking of the first three Seals, another force rose up to vitally affect a different portion of the world. China was taken over in an unprovoked conquest (1937). The Japanese Imperialist War Lords were the power of the Death-rider and the people of China were the one-fourth part of the earth. The Death-rider continued in his vaunted success to strike Pearl Harbor and there engaged forces which led to his downfall.

But the Death-rider was followed by another, the power of Hades (the Unseen), and to *them* was given power over one-fourth part of the earth. After China had been subjugated and weakened by the Japanese, the satanic powers of Hades took over, following the Japanese exit. The replacement power was that of communism (1949). And China continues to suffer under the scourge of the demonic powers of Satan's "unseen realm" (*Jn. 12:31, Eph. 2:2*) through communist tyranny. Many are to die in conflict, by starvation, by familiar and new diseases and by wild beasts, not sent from God, but developed from Satan's plan implemented by man. God never sends evil; there is no evil in Him (*Jms. 1:13, Ps. 5:4*), but He permits harm to grow from wickedness (*Ps. 94:23, Ps. 7:14-16, Ps. 141:9-10, II Chron. 20:22-25, Rom. 11:9*). The pattern in each of the Seal developments continues and intensifies through to the end of the age.

But do not be anxious, you saints, because of the evil doer and his ways, for evildoers will be cut down like grass (*Ps. 37:2*) and shall be cast into the furnace of affliction (*Matt. 6:30*). But those who *do* the Lord's will shall abide for the eon (*I Jn. 2:17*). Forces leading to Judgment have been released which are beyond recall.

The apocalyptic horsemen ride into the night. Many martyrs wait under the Altar. And earth itself quivers in orbit, anticipating release from sin's displacement. Angels on every hand minister to heirs of Salvation, sealing many for the Kingdom's finest hour, making ready for the downpour from heaven in the midst of the clash of arms and fiery blasts. Trumpets sound their ominous warning to sleeping multitudes, drunk in the stupor of sin's dark night. But watching virgins are aroused, trimming their lamps at the sound of the Bridegroom's steps. Watch, watch, watch, for the hour is late. Make haste while there is yet time to prepare, so you, too, will not be found wanting in the age's decisive hour. Listen, for the Lord speaks to you to come into the chamber and abide with Him.

We are living in the wonderful day when the Lord is beginning to move in a marked way among men of many denominations, both Protestant and Catholic. The comments offered here, therefore, are in no way a judgment upon individual Christians, nor upon many sincere ministers of Christ who may be doing the best they can. Only God can judge an individual's heart, and so we are forbidden to do so (*Matt. 7:1*).

However, Jesus did command us to judge what is right (*Lk. 12:57, Jn. 7:24*). When we thus weigh or assess the present world situation in the light of God's prophetic Word, it is abundantly evident that the hand of God's judgment is fast descending upon Christendom and the organized church systems instituted by man. It is written that Jesus Christ will yet thoroughly *purge* His threshing floor, gathering the ripened or matured grain into His barn, but burning the chaff with unquenchable fire (*Matt. 3:12*). The fiery crucible is rapidly coming as the inevitable result of modern Christendom being built too much with the "wood, hay and stubble" of man's ways, rather than with the "gold, silver and precious stones" of God's ways. Whatever the work, it shall be revealed by fire (*I Cor. 3:12-13*).

Therefore, "*cry aloud, spare not, lift up your voice like a trumpet and show My people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins*" (*Isa. 58:1*). This is God's commission to the prophet of Isaiah's day and to the prophet of our day. The sins of Christendom, like those of ancient Israel, have become a stench in the nostrils of the Almighty and His fury is arising (*Isa. 65:1-5, 30:27-28*). "*Blow the trumpet in Zion and sound an alarm in My holy mountain, for the day of the Lord is close at hand*" (*Joel 2:1*).

One of the purposes of the trumpet was to sound an alarm for war (*Num. 10:9*), and so the trumpet is shown to be a symbol of the prophet's voice as he sounds the alarm of judgment coming through war. Proclaim among the Gentiles, prepare war, wake up the mighty men. All men of war, draw near, come up. Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. You who are weak say, I am strong (*Joel 3:9-10*). Today we can clearly see the Scripture being fulfilled among the nations. Even previously small and weak nations, such as those in the Middle East, are feverishly arming.

Nobody wants war, but it is a fact that mankind as a whole is yet too carnal to live without it. War is the inevitable result of greed, selfishness and covetousness of unregenerate human hearts (*Jms. 4:1-3*). Peace is the fruit of righteousness (*Isa. 32:17*), but for the wicked there is no peace (*Isa. 48:22*). God has decreed that those who make for themselves crooked paths, contrary to His will, shall not know

peace. If the nations were seeking peace for righteousness sake, their efforts would be crowned with success, but humans want peace so that they may live for their own selfish pleasures in forgetfulness of God. The increasingly rapid moral degeneracy of our so-called "Christian" society is striking evidence of this. Therefore, the Lord has decreed that the sword shall come the third time in a third World War (*Ezek. 21:14*), to the end that men shall, in their extremity, reach out for God and be severed from their carnal ways. But see in this the mercy of God in His severity. He is not willing to lose any. However, He will even remove *all* "things" from man so that, by any chance, man might turn and lean on Him. God warns His chosen people of the dangers of forgetting Him, and of the inevitable consequences which do follow (*Deut. 8:11-14, 17-20; Jdg. 3:7-8; I Sam. 12:9; Jer. 2:32, 3:21*).

The words of Jesus in *Matthew 10:34* and *Luke 12:51* throw much light on God's purpose for this age. He did not come to bring peace upon the earth, but a sword and division. The symbolic significance of the sword is that of division or severance (*Heb. 4:12*). God's declared purpose is that man be pierced with the sword of truth and severed from his carnality. He must learn to divide and distinguish between truth and falsehood, righteousness and evil, light and darkness, and what is of God and what is not. Until he learns to submit to the "sword" of division in this higher sense of moral and spiritual discernment and discrimination, he must experience the "sword" of division in its lower phase of conflict, strife, suffering and sorrow – up to the time he comes to himself (*Lk. 15:17*) and turns to God for help and deliverance. Now do you see why the "sword" of conflict and war is the inevitable consequence of man's slowness to learn and his stubbornness in self-will (carnality) to resist learning?

God uses the resultant suffering incidental to conflict to goad man into thinking, seeing his need, repenting and turning to the *only* source of true peace, God Himself. It would be well to go over these thoughts several times, until you begin to grasp the "whys" of God permitting those things which, from man's carnal and limited perspective, seem so cruel and unjust. God is not even slightly interested in man's clever philosophy. And His ways are not man's ways (*I Cor. 1:19-20, Isa. 55:8-9*). He sees all things from the perspective of the ultimate and enduring good (*Rom. 8:28*), and it is in His love for man that He has His purpose in the "sword" doing its work. Therefore, as long as man remains in His present state of carnality, there can be no prospects for peace.

Why are so many still feverishly trying to hold on to and develop "detente," living with and trading with the God-denouncing communists in China and various other lands? It can only lead to a climactic destruction of the world Society we know. Even now the ideological conflicts, animosities and divisions among and within nations grow deeper each year. And before the final showdown, the nations will be increasingly divided into two separate blocs, even though ostensibly they will appear to be trying to work together in a "One World Government." In *Matthew 25:32-33*, the nations are pictured as being gathered together before the Lord, and He separates them to the right and left. Remember that most Scriptures have more than one application or fulfillment, so we cannot limit this passage to the gathering of men of all nations in front of the Lord at a specific place and time. The word "before" also can indicate that which is previous in time, and we shall see this increased separating prior to the Lord's return. The Greek word for "gathered"

means “to lead together,” and the same word is used in *Revelation 16:14*, picturing the nations of the world being led together to the battle of that great Day of God Almighty. In *Revelation 16:13*, the *men* who are instrumental in leading the nations together into power blocks are represented by the dragon, the beast and the false prophet. The initial and foundational end-time manifestation was the “croakings” of Mussolini, Stalin and Hitler which began gathering the nations into separate ideological blocks. Since then, the same unclean spirits have been working through other leaders, although the coalitions have altered and taken a somewhat different form.

It is apparent now how the gathering is crystallizing into the socialist/communist bloc versus the non-socialist/communist and/or capitalist nations – the “sheep” nations of so-called Christendom on the right and the “goat” nations of socialist/communism on the left. It is even common to use the terms “right” and “left” to designate their alignment. However, within the nations of Christendom, there are many individuals who are strongly pro-left, for the elements have infiltrated every segment of our so-called “Christian” society. There is purpose in it, to the end that our desolation will be more complete, for we have sinned abominably in the sight of God. The red desolator is given a great sword and power to take peace from the earth (*Rev. 6:4*). Babylonian Christendom has been weighed in the balances and found wanting (*Dan. 5:27*). Therefore, the sword comes.

The word of the Lord came to Ezekiel to cause Jerusalem to know her abominations (*Ezek. 16:2*). It also becomes the Divine duty of the prophets of our day to make Christendom come to know her abominations and the desolation that is coming because of them, for ancient Jerusalem is a type of modern Christendom – natural Israel expanded to spiritual Israel (*Hos. 8:1-9, 11:7-11*). However, because we recognize and emphasize the symbolic application of the Old Testament Scriptures to “spiritual Israel” or Christendom, it is not implied that they do not also have an application to natural Israel. In this ending of the age, God will also call natural Israel to account for its abominations. It is for this reason He has caused a representative number of Jews to return to Palestine and re-occupy the city of Jerusalem. In the land of their fathers, they shall also experience the wrath of God through the desolating power.

The Lord told Ezekiel to inform the people that, in the day when He brings the sword upon the land, they are to set up a watchman. When the watchman sees the sword coming, he is to warn the people by blowing the trumpet. If they do not respond to the warning, their blood is not on the watchman’s head. But as many as do respond, they shall see deliverance of their souls. If the watchman does not blow the trumpet when the sword approaches, the blood of the people taken in their iniquity will God require at the watchman’s hand (*Ezek. 33:2-7*). The prophet is the watchman and the trumpet is his voice to give them God’s warning. The trumpet warning must go forth, loud and clear, for if the trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who shall *prepare himself* for the battle (*I Cor. 14:8*)?

*Isaiah 28:22-29* illustrates God’s dealing with man by the various means a farmer uses to thresh different grains. In the final “harvest” and “threshing” of the nations, not all nations or groups will be dealt with in the same manner, nor with the same degree of severity. Nevertheless, since all the nations of Christendom have “sown



to the wind," they all will reap "the whirlwind" in varying degrees (*Hos. 8:7*). A whirlwind symbolizes revolution and/or civil war within. Evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind of insurrection and lawlessness will engulf the nations. During that day, the slain of the Lord shall be from one end of the earth to the other, and they shall not be lamented, nor gathered, nor buried; they shall be as dung upon the ground (*Jer. 30:23-24; Ezek. 38:21-23; Ps. 79:1-3; Rev. 16:18-21, 19:17-19*).

Those who put their whole trust in the Lord have nothing to fear, but there is the need to allow the Lord to prepare them, for the vast majority of Christians will have to experience the Tribulation conditions on earth (*Rev. 7:13-14*). Jesus warned of the need for preparation, lest we find ourselves suffering the "stripes" or buffeting conditions of the Tribulation without the completeness of the Lord's protection and guidance (*Lk. 12:47-48*).

**: 9-10** The historical fulfillment of the fifth Seal began in 1200 A.D. with the killing of "heretics." In its end-time fulfillment, beginning about 1938, the fifth Seal is the natural consequence of the developments from the arrival of the four horses and riders. Their forms of tyranny lead to much bloodshed, certainly among those having the conscience and the will to resist their encroachments, and especially among those who truly possess the Word of God and are a living testimony. The intensity of persecution and martyrdom increases until the end of the age, as the forces of entrenched evil gain greater dominion and boldness. John saw the souls of those who had been martyred *waiting* at the foot of the Altar, fully aware that judgment is being readied against the forces responsible for their deaths.

All who enter Paradise go through a *process* of purification. Over a period of time they attain white soul garments through a course of reorientation from earth desires to God's plan.

**: 11** But there has been a period of waiting. Those purified in that realm called Paradise, clothed in their purified (white) soul bodies, are waiting for the first or out-resurrection from the dead. At that time, physical bodies will be restored to them, but in glorified power, and they will be received by the Lord into His heavenly Kingdom. The restoration of their bodies as glorified physical bodies will take place at the final sound of the seventh Trumpet, when the dead "*in Christ*" are raised and the living saints are changed (*I Thess. 4:16-17*).

The golden Altar for Incense in *Exodus 30:6,10* was an earthly copy of this heavenly Altar (*Heb. 9:23*). It was kept just outside the Holy of Holies, except on the Day of Atonement, when it was taken in, as explained in the Mishna (*Lev. 16:12, 30, 34*). Likewise the heavenly Altar of *Revelation 6:9* (the same as in *Rev. 8:3*) is not in the presence of God, and the souls of those under it are waiting for their opportunity to come into the Throne area. The Holy Place in the wilderness Tabernacle is a picture of this present age (*Heb. 9:9*), and the move into the Holy of Holies and into the presence of God comes at the end of the age on *the* Day of Atonement. The move into the heavenly Holy of Holies is for the High Priest category only, the Holy Spirit Baptized. On that day, they are prepared by a final cleansing and then go in to be introduced to the High Father (*Rev. 15:5-8*).

In the new age, some martyrs will reign and rule with Christ on earth in His



earthly Kingdom (60-fold), and some martyrs will reign with Christ from His Throne in His heavenly Kingdom (100-fold). God has reserved a greater reward for all who lay aside the desires of the flesh and the pride of this life, while there is liberty to enjoy them, than for those who decide at the last moment that they should not deny Christ and then give up physical life.

**: 12** When the sixth Seal is broken (1939-1945), John sees a great earthquake and a darkening of the sun and the moon. An ordinary earthquake does not produce these sun and moon phenomena, but there is one type of tremendous shaking which does, when released on a large scale – the multiple detonation of nuclear warheads. When great amounts of dirt, debris and massive smoke clouds are injected high into the air by titanic explosions, the result is a blackening or browning out of the sun's light (sackcloth is a coarse weave of hair) and the moon would appear blood red at night. The opening of the sixth Seal, therefore, has to do with the development and initial use of nuclear weapons. But this Seal also continues to carry through to the end of the age, just as the others do. In its progressive development, the full force of nuclear weapon destruction on the world, which culminates during the judgment of the seven Bowls of Wrath (*Rev. 16*), is also pictured within the time span of the sixth Seal. Six is man's number, so it is appropriate to picture in his intrinsic number the complete effect of man's works apart from God. It is man who unleashes the awful fury of the atom, and it is man's civilization that shall be destroyed by it.

Because the "wrath of God" is to be visited upon man and upon his corrupt civilization by the destructive fire-power *and* radiation from large scale use of nuclear weaponry, John describes this time as the great Day of God's Wrath in which few will be able to stand (*Rev. 6:17*). Actually, the great Day of God's Wrath began when the first atomic bombs fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August 5 and 11, 1945, with massive destruction, but it will not be consummated until the seven Bowls of Wrath are poured out at the end of The Great Tribulation. As previously shown, the measure of the Lord's Day is 42 years, placing its conclusion therefore in the fall of 1987. The delay in the *full* expression of God's wrath is effected by a hold order given to the four angels at the four corners of the earth; they are instructed not to unleash judgment until the sealing angel has sealed the servants of God in their foreheads (*Rev. 7:1-3*).

The breaking of the sixth Seal brings on the rumblings prior to the great earthquake. *Haggai 2:5-7* and *Hebrews 12:26-29* tell of God's shaking the religious heavens, the financial heavens and all the earth (the organizations and systems of man), as a prelude to the great collapse of all that can be shaken. The shaking preliminaries began September 1, 1939, with the initiation of World War II. The great earthquake is both symbolic and literal. It is the total shaking and disrupting of all man's vaunted society, and it is also a literal shaking of the earth. Both continue with increased intensity to the end of the age. So great will be the effects of massive explosions on both sides of the earth that it shall reel to and fro like a drunkard (*Isa. 24:20*).

**: 13-14** Because of the accelerations and gyrations of the earth, strange sights will be seen in the heavens. Also, the abnormal movement of the earth during that time of great shaking will produce great windstorms, adding to the air forces from

nuclear explosions and bringing violent atmospheric turbulence and upheavals. The violent atmospheric disturbances and the phenomena appearing in the starry heavens, because of the earth's erratic movement, will indeed bring the experience described as heaven departing as a scroll being rolled together. The great shaking and twisting of the earth's crust will also cause mountains and islands to be displaced.

The symbolic content of the breaking of the sixth Seal speaks of great spiritual darkness among the willfully rebellious (darkened sun), and great bloodletting by the rebellious nations (bloody moon); but the stars of the sky (Firstfruits) come down to earth, as the early fruits of the fig tree in the gale. Their ministry of power begins with The Great Tribulation. Subsequently, a timely ministry of testimony will spread within both spiritual and natural Israel (*Rev. 7:4*).

In its historical application, the world was stunned when Hitler's Panzer Divisions crossed the Polish border. That earthquake rumbled and rumbled, shaking the entire world. Millions would die in it. The sun became black and the moon as blood. The sun symbolizes Christendom and the moon the world of the Jews. And the world saw Great Britain and France black out, and soon six million Jews had been murdered. Also, the stars of heaven fell to earth as when the fig tree casts her green figs, being shaken by a mighty wind. Stars can typify either men or angelic messengers (*Gen. 37:9-10, Rev. 1:20*). The fig tree usually depicts the Jewish people and today, Israel. Madman Hitler generated the mighty wind of rampaging human thoughts and emotions against the "cursed Jew." But he who cursed the seed of Abraham would be cursed by God. That took place! But in the terrific storm, many "figs" were carried quite a long distance before they hit the ground. Multitudes of Jews fled to other countries, such as the USA, to escape being murdered. Because of that mighty wind, we have the nation of Israel today.

Then the breaking of the sixth Seal resulted in heavens being rolled up like a scroll and vanishing, and every mountain and island being moved out of their places. The word "every" does not mean the extreme of every in a literal sense, but is a figure of speech utilized even today in many ways (*Rev. 13:8*). Mountains symbolize nations; the moving of the German mountain was imminent at the time. The islands picture lesser groupings of people set apart by the victorious nations following great wars. The mountain of Germany was certainly moved after Hitler's defeat, and islands, such as Yugoslavia, East Germany etc. were created. Mountains, islands, rivers, seas, rocks, sand, trees, etc. all usually typify peoples, nations, rulers and mundane matters. They are of the earth and this world. But the heavens are higher than the earth, symbolizing the spiritual or that which is of God.

It was during World War II and its aftermath that spiritual values went to hell. God is dead to many in the seminaries of religious education and to the mass mind. Lawlessness, crime, depravity and stark evil without cause have become hideous monsters stalking the world today. The heaven-scroll has been rolled up progressively and quickly. It was through the *opening* of the scroll that God was revealed to man. But the rolling up clearly pictures the closing of the scroll and the hiding of the revelation of God to most. The bomb shelters of World War II, and the seeking of asylum in other countries to escape the madness of Hitler and the aftermath conditions, are a partial fulfillment of the hiding in caves and among the rocks of the mountains (nations). There will yet be a more realistic fulfillment when the Great

Day of His Wrath is upon the world of nations, but few understand this. Great and fearful things will take place; but the primary message here is the prolonged development throughout a great many years beyond World War II.

Here too, there is another application, the short range within the long range. The Great Tribulation, when it starts, begins in the spring. It also is the great and strong wind. And the fig tree, of all the trees, produces two crops, one in the spring and one in late summer. In The Great Tribulation, two hosts are featured in the upper heavens which "drop" to earth. There is the translated Firstfruits company, soon after the host of demons is cast down. But, since the context here is one of adverse judgment, the more probable picture is that of the demon hosts (the stars of false light) being the ones cast down. The unripeness description also fits the picture. The Firstfruits Bride group then also returns, but with true light. *Isaiah 34:1-4* expands the coverage not only to include Satan's host but also the unfaithful Christendom vine and the unfaithful present-day fig tree nation of Israel.

God's wrath, coupled with man's inhumanity to man, culminates in the pouring out of the Bowls of Wrath and the destruction of every thing that is not of God (*Isa. 2:19,20*).

: **15-17** There is no turning to God in the final days of the Bowls of Wrath, for the door will be shut (*Lk. 13:23-25, II Thess. 1:8-9, Zeph. 2:1-3, Prov. 1:27-29*). Instead, there will be great anger against God as well as great fear of the results of His wrath. Who will be able to stand under it? Too late the world will recognize He was indeed the Lamb (*I Jn. 2:28*).

## REVELATION 7

**T**his section is still under the sixth Seal and it takes a closer look at *the Church* from just before the beginning of the Great Tribulation until its end.

: **1** The four angels who stir up the nations (*Dan. 7:2, Zech. 6:5*) are given a hold-order before the start of the Great Tribulation. It is a holding back of disciplinary and destructive judgments, a delay in final destruction and waiting while the sealing angel accomplishes a certain work.

Since the breaking of the sixth Seal was marked by the opening of World War II, the hold order would begin at the time of the peace treaty. In the heavenlies, the four angels are probably four Archangels; but on earth and in the context of World War II, they are the primary nations involved, the USA, Great Britain, Russia (formerly USSR), Germany or possibly France. Beginning with the unconditional surrender signatures on May 7, 1945, the hold-order submits that the super-powers would not again engage in declared war, until the *bondslaves* of God would be fully sealed. The very word "sealing" brings to mind common practices of hundreds of years ago. The sealing indicated approval of what was being sealed. The sealing not only indicated approval, but there also was a very specific impartation to that being sealed by the imprinting of the character of the seal. And so it also must be in the case of the one-time sealing of 12,000 out of each of the 12 Jewish tribes.

The four winds of the earth also picture the world-wide effects of nuclear warfare, because large scale destruction is primarily caused by atmospheric shock wave and wind from the exploding bombs.

**:2** The rising of the sun is the beginning of the outpouring of God's brightness and power, and the angel carries the seal of acceptance of the living God. See the section on *Revelation 3:12* and read *Ezekiel 9* on the Seal of God and the sealing. Either before or during the Tribulation, all bondslaves who are to be accepted by Christ for His earthly Kingdom must be sealed on the forehead (mind). This *Revelation 7* sealing is His acceptance of a small company out of the nation which has stubbornly rejected its Messiah during the past 1900 years. These become the first of a growing number of His Jewish bondslaves.

**:3** The "earth" represents the organizations of men, the "sea," masses of people, the "trees," well-rooted leaders and rulers and therefore also nations.

**:4-8** This *Revelation 7* seal is to be placed on the foreheads of the bondslaves of our God. The bonds slave label can only refer to those of the Jewish people who will have recognized Jesus Christ as their true Messiah and become the earthly firstfruits of physical Israel (*Lev. 25:42,55*). The ...000 ending is the Father's lowest expressive number and indicates a fulfillment of the Spirit's purpose, a rest of the Holy Spirit in the matter, making the number 144,000 symbolic of that many who have fully met the basic requirements for manifesting Christ on their specific plane of operation. This passage cannot possibly refer to the 144,000 Bride company (*Rev. 14:1*), because she is set free in Holy Spirit Baptism. Those chosen by Christ to become His Bride are certainly not bondslaves, but free. A minimum number of His bondslaves are to receive the seal of the living God in their minds *before* the judgments begin to fall. These 144,000 are Jewish firstfruits; therefore, others are also to be sealed as they reach the same level of qualification. This is the basic sealing to enable and equip those who will become administrators in Christ's earthly Kingdom (*Ezek. 37:21-28*). This earthly Kingdom is to become a reflection of Christ's heavenly Kingdom (*Matt. 6:10*).

Scripture relates that the light of the moon shall become as the light of the sun (*Isa. 30:26*). This pictures a time when a remnant of the chosen seed of Israel, even the 144,000 group of the physical descendants of Abraham, the Jewish remnant, shall turn to the Lord shortly before The Great Tribulation. In them, the light of the moon, which represents the reflective and distorted light of those yet under the rudiments of the Law, shall become as the sun, which represents the light and power of the Christ's Gospel. Some of those who hitherto have given only the meager light of the moon shall shine with the brilliance of the sun (the Son).

This will be the beginning of the prophetic fulfillment of the binding up of the breach of His people and the healing of their wound (*Isa. 30:26*). The Lord will bring forth a Body which is walking in the unity of His Spirit, and the breach which has divided His people will be filled in. Then will they walk in full liberty before their God, and the wound which has kept them from walking in His full light and power will be healed. This prophecy shall be fulfilled for the Lord's earthly people, the physical seed of Abraham. The breach which was made when He cast His people off shall be bound up as He receives a representative number for His work. As they were cast off in anger, so shall they be drawn to the Lord with great mercy,

and the breach which has kept them apart from the Lord's presence for an entire age shall begin to be bound up. The Lord will receive them and the wound which came upon them because of the rejection of the God Spirit in human flesh (Jesus of Nazareth) shall also begin to be healed. As they wounded their Lord, so He wounded them, and they have wandered, unhealed, throughout this age. Millions have died; and millions will yet die.

: 9 In the association of *verses 9-17* with the foregoing, we run into a bit of a problem. These verses have been moved from their proper place in the text. By Scripture pattern, we know the multitude is not translated into heaven immediately after the 144,000 *bondslaves* are sealed. Twelve times we see the mention of 12,000 and we hardly can separate this number from time. *Revelation 7:9* begins with "After this." From pattern, we know it must be about four years after the scalings are completed that the vast host out of *Christendom* (every nation) stands before the Throne and before the Lamb. (The sealed *bondslaves* are trained for and, through Abraham, promised the administration of Christ's earthly Kingdom with headquarters in Jerusalem.) The scene here is in heaven before the Throne, the host from the nations having been taken up to heaven, the dead in Christ first and then those still alive (*I Thess. 4:16-17*). This is the extension of the sixth Seal events into the Harvest time at the end of The Great Tribulation, and it is the fulfillment of the promise to the martyrs in *Revelation 6:11*. These are overcomers, and the palm branches signify their victory (the people carried them when Christ came into Jerusalem on a donkey – not at *that* time on a horse, denoting war).

: 14 White robes (righteousness) are the glorified body attire of all overcomers who have been translated to heaven (*Rev. 3:4, 19:8*). While on earth, they had previously washed their robes in the redemptive blood of the Lamb (*Rev. 7:14*) – and worked to keep them clean. This is the Harvest group of overcomers, having not only the *gift* of eternal life (*Rom. 6:23*) previously granted in the earthly realm, but also the prize of the heavenly calling (*Phil. 3:14*). The prize has been awarded to bring them to the heavenly realm. Again, note that the developments under all the Seals extend to the end of The Great Tribulation.

: 17 At the end of this period of trouble, and at the beginning of the Millennium period of peace under the rule of Jesus Christ, He is seen in the midst of the Throne. Previously He has been at the right hand of the Father (*Col. 3:1*). Jesus is here on His own Throne in the New Jerusalem, after The Great Tribulation.

But it is in our time that the Lord has been moving to heal and restore. Shall He not also heal the age-long enmity between Christian and Jew? Shall He not bind up the breach of the dispersion and make His people one in these last days of the age? Surely He will take the stick of Ephraim and join it to the stick of Judah (*Ezek. 37:16-19*). Surely He will join the house of Israel, now represented by the nations of Christendom, to the house of Judah, represented by the people known as the Jews. Truly He will bind up that brotherhood which was broken when His staff was cut asunder, when the Anointed One, the Messiah, was crucified (*Zech. 11:7-14*). The Lord shall once again take that which was beautiful in His hands and will bring it into its rightful place, so that the brotherhood between the house of Israel and the house of Judah might be restored. This He will do as He joins together His people in this last day. And it shall be a time of great rejoicing as His people who

call upon His Name are healed of their unbelief and go forth to proclaim His truth. That anointed company of overcomers which He is raising up shall proclaim the Truth in power.

The light to be made available by the Glorious Church shall be as the glory of seven times the light His chosen Body has yet seen. And since the seven-fold light of the new "sun" is accompanied by the light of the moon become as the light of the sun, the result will be an eight-fold light in this end-time from the aligned Christian and Jewish Churches. It will be the light of full resurrection power and glory from the Lord to bring *complete* regeneration to multitudes. Therefore, rejoice in the greater Light which shall overcome the intense darkness. Great will be the manifestation of the glory of the Lord in this day, dedicated Christians can come to know the fullness of it. He has prepared and reserved it for our time.

## **REVELATION 8**

**T**he seventh Seal continues on the subject of *the Church*.

**: 1** Immediately after the seventh Seal is broken, there is silence *in heaven* for *about* one-half hour, indicating a deferral of certain things in heaven and a holding back of action, or an inactivity in this specific thing. Keep in mind that the seventh Seal does not follow the completion of the sixth Seal, but is opened some years after the sixth Seal is opened. All six Seals have been opened in rapid succession over a short period of time. The various forces released under each Seal continue in their development to the end, producing an overlapping of the effects. The silence is in heaven after the seventh Seal is opened, and it is associated with the hold order given to the angels in charge of the four winds of the earth (**Rev. 7:1**). It serves to defer the complete fulfillment of the "Day of Wrath" through destruction by nuclear warfare, and its purpose is to give an added period of time for preparation and providing of a minimum number of God's servants.

It should be apparent to all this far into the study of God's Word, that the opening of the final and innermost Seal, the seventh, must deal with matters winding up the Christian cycle, matters intrinsically linked with His Church. That work with His Church commences with the final preparation of His 144,000 Bride and winds up with the great Harvest multitude of **Revelation 7:9-17**. Following that work, there are to be two weeks of God's Wrath poured out upon the unrepentant. Then Jesus Christ bodily returns to earth, accompanied by His Bride and household, to organize His earthly Kingdom.

The half hour of silence is to be understood in its *heavenly* frame, not an earthly one. Matters on earth will be progressing the same as before the Seal is broken. But when there is action in heaven, there are drastic or unusual consequences on earth. In **Revelation 8:1-2**, mention is made of the seventh Seal, seven Angels, and seven Trumpets – three seven's. The number three is connected with communication and seven is the number related to the Church. It is a picture of the Lord about to communicate with His Church. But first, there is a period of waiting. As we have seen previously, the measure of the 12 hours of the Lord's Day of Light is 21

years. Therefore, one hour is 21 months or 640 days. Half an hour would be 320 days. It would seem reasonable that the "about half an hour" would need to be terminated when the land beast of **Revelation 13:11** is invested with Satanic power for 1260 days. After that, activities *in heaven* will resume.

But we should look for one more application as well, a more intense and shorter term fulfillment. We noted the half-hour of silence was in heaven. However, if we view the heavenly event on a plane separate from events on earth, in a second and more intense application, then we have to transfer that which is heavenly to the earthly. The basic time formula in the heavens above us is four minutes for each degree of travel across the mid-heaven. If we take the degrees as symbolizing years, an hour would compare with 15 degrees or 15 years, and a half hour would become 7 1/2 years. The Church is the business of Jesus Christ and His manifestation number to man is 100 to 1. To bring the "approximate half-hour" *down* to earth measurements, we divide 7 1/2 years or 2740 days by 100 and obtain the result of 28 days as the earth equivalent of the half-hour in heaven. That is about one lunar month.

Real Tribulation may commence approximately one month prior to the Bride being called. Then the angels stand by, watching for another 30 to 33 days to see what the Bride-elect might do in the face of mounting Tribulation, as sort of a final testing. It is after the seventh Seal opens that an Angel goes to the Altar. There the offering of the intercessions of Christ, added to the prayers of the saints on earth, raises much smoke to God. Spirits in the heavenlies do not beseech God for anything; they adore and worship. Therefore, the smoke of much incense indicates mounting tribulation on earth, just as soon as the "man of sin" strides forth. When the Angel casts *holy* fire down upon the earth, the Firstfruits will depart. The 144,000 hear the summoning voices, and their response is as thunder. The world is shaken as by an earthquake upon learning of their mysterious disappearance.

Also, the earthquake is likely the opening of serious war against Israel. Sacred fire is for separating and purging; thus two camps are established, one for God and His Anointed, the other for the Beast and his false prophet messenger (against God).

Everyone in heaven stands in silence and in awe at what is about to be revealed of the forthcoming events that will lead into the consummating of God's plans for the Church. Seven is the number of the Church, and when this seventh Seal is broken, the developments concerning the Church are set in motion. The breaking of the seventh Seal initiates the last minute preparations necessary for His Church; the seventh Trumpet announces His coming for His Church; the seventh Bowl brings on the wiping away of everything not in harmony with His Church.

After being shown the seven Seals sequence, we are taken back to about 1940 again to view the seven angels prepared to sound the seven Trumpets. The seven Trumpets are warnings of judgment, and their blowings portray events leading up to the final outpouring of wrath. For this reason, in **Revelation 8:5**, there is a picking up of the events unleashed in the sixth Seal (**Rev. 6:12**), to introduce the first warning Trumpet. The fire from the heavenly Altar is cast on the earth, and the earthquake which follows is the same nuclear-energy earth-shaking described under the sixth Seal. In its preview and earthly applications, this fire is initially cast on the earth soon after the first warning Trumpet blows. Although full wrath is de-



layed for a time, the first Trumpet blasts out its warning that the discovery of atomic power and its incorporation into destructive weaponry will eventually affect all the inhabitants of the land (the green grass), and completely nullify the effectiveness of one-third of its leading citizens (trees) (*Rev. 8:7*).

## The Seven Trumpets

### REVELATION 8

(Trumpets 1-4)

**B**efore studying the announcements of the seven Trumpets, read *Exodus 19* which pictures the New Covenant given by Christ for us in this day. The promise is that He will bear us on eagle's wings during the trouble (:4). Note the conditional "if" in *verse 5* and the promise specifically for us as spiritual Israel in *verse 6*. In *verses 10 and 11*, the Lord promises deliverance on the morning of the third day (to the Lord, 1000 years is as a day – *II Pet. 3:8*) and we are to *be ready* by the third day (the starting of the Trumpets), for the Lord will come down. A mountain (here Mt. Sinai) signifies a kingdom (His Kingdom). The people are to wash their clothes (body and soul-garments) *before* the third day (:14). As the trumpet blast sounded, and it was a long blast, there were thunders and lightnings (judgments) and the Lord descended to the clouds *near* to the top of the mountain. The sound of the Trumpets grew louder and louder. Moses went up to the top, first of all, a picture of the Firstfruits being taken up to meet Him in the clouds. Then he was sent back to impress the people below with God's warnings. There was further sanctification of the priests, and Aaron (the Glorious Church) later accompanied Moses into empowerment, picturing two groups to be used by the Lord in this end-time. Further notes on the two come at *Chapter 11* (page 220).

The Angel with the golden censer and incense introduces the sequential blowing of all seven Trumpets. Then at the last sounding of the seventh Trumpet, the seven Bowls of Wrath are poured out to cleanse the earth and prepare the way for the coming King. The day of wrath is a necessary prelude to answering the prayer which Jesus outlined for His Disciples: "*Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*" (*Matt. 6:10*). Such prayer has ascended from the lips of multiplied thousands down through the present age. Here, the acceptance of their prayers is shown as being in the very midst of, and as a part of, the heavenly episodes which prepare for judgment.

**:3-4** Just before the seven Trumpets begin their blasts of warning judgments, John sees an Angel come and stand at the heavenly Altar of Incense, having a golden censer filled with the prayers of all the saints. There, He was given much incense to add to the prayers so that He could offer the whole upon the Golden Altar before the Throne. The smoke of the incense mingled with the prayers of the saints and ascended before God out of the Angel's hand. This Angel's ministering at the heavenly Altar is representative of the High Priestly ministry of Jesus Christ. In the symbolic picture, intercessory prayers (incense) of Him Who always is living to intercede and petition for them (*Heb. 7:25*) are added to the prayers of the saints then under the pressure of mounting Tribulation on earth. (Where there is smoke,

there is fire.) It is this combination which rises before God.

As a result of these prayers, the preliminary Trumpet judgments are set in motion, preparing the way for the final Bowls of Wrath. God delights in answering unselfish prayer and this is the time for His reponse to these prayers. When the earth is swept clean of its refuse at the conclusion of the Trumpets and Bowls of Wrath developments, the way will be prepared for the full implementation of the Kingdom of Light and Love. It is to be administered by saints in glorious splendor, giving full allegiance to Him Whose Name is the Word of God and Who bears the title King of kings and Lord of lords (*Rev. 19:13,16*). Therefore, you too pray that the day will hasten, that your prayers also may ascend and fill the Temple in Heaven with sweet fragrance, so that God may respond to give His called-out ones rest from the oppressor, and a full and abundant entrance into His Kingdom.

As each Trumpet begins to blow, it announces the start-up of events and forces which develop and continue to carry on through to the end of the Great Tribulation period. Each Trumpet sets in motion, at its initial blast, its respective set of conditions which progressively unfold on the world scene. When the full unfolding of one set has been described in the text, we are taken back in time to hear the sound of the next Trumpet and see its set of events and forces. Then we back up again to hear what is covered by the next Trumpet's set. Each Trumpet begins to blow a little later than the initial sounding of the previous one, but they overlap and all continue to blow concurrently, once they have begun. Each starts in sequence and continues to the end of The Great Tribulation, until a mighty crescendo chord is reached in the climax of all things.

The Trumpets are remedial in nature for sounding warning, to call the people together for instructions and to call them to be ready to move into what the Lord shows (*Num. 10:1-10*). They warn that the judgment of all things is at hand and that the wind-up of the age is rapidly drawing near. Coupled with a special moving of the Spirit, they call His people to get ready for the grand climax of all things, and to come together as a Body to be anointed as Jesus was in His day to do mighty works and go forth in power to reap a great Harvest. As this Body fulfills its mission, it will become ready to cross over into the Promised Land to receive the fullness of all that has been prepared for those who are called and chosen and faithful. By mid-1967, six of the Trumpets had begun their soundings, which are all continuing. With the blowing of the seventh Trumpet, the final veil is removed, and all men shall see clearly what has been a mystery to most up to that moment in human history. It is at this time, the beginning of The Great Tribulation, that the saints are seen giving fervent invitation for Christ to set all things right. It is then that God undertakes to answer with finality.

In *I Chronicles 15:24*, seven trumpets blow prior to the Ark (symbolizing Jesus Christ) being returned to its proper place. The picture is that of Christ's personal return to His place on earth at the consummation of the Seventh Trumpet period. But first, He must return to His rightful place as the Head of His Church. As elsewhere stated in these notes, the Word of the Lord is the basis for illuminating the symbolism used to picture the events. While the validity of the picturing has been checked, each reader also has the responsibility to work for and receive the witness of the "Law and Testimony" of (Yahweh) Jesus that these interpretations

are those given by Him (*Isa. 8:20*). Yet most church members, ministers too, have not learned how to measure. Their "rod" is still crooked, non-standard, or so flexible it turns away from actual Truth – when that differs from their tradition. Therefore thoughtfully search out all Bible references noted, see the *patterns* woven in, and carefully weigh and evaluate for whole Truth content.

## The First Trumpet

:5 In answer to the fervent invitation of His wholly dedicated people, the Angel (Jesus Christ) took fire from the Altar and cast it down on the earth. Then there were judgments and the shaking of all things. Only following this, the Trumpets started to blow.

It is during this Trumpet's blowing that the Firstfruits 144,000 receive God's transforming voltage and our entire earth shall quake and heave. This is the period of the first Angel's sounding and it coincides with the seven Thunders response of **Revelation 10**, when there no longer remains any "mystery." Then 1260 days beyond the specific revealing, a greater earthquake follows on the Day of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah) when the great Harvest is gathered in (**Rev. 11:13**).

After the initial sounding of the first Trumpet unleashes the power of the atom for destruction, the fury builds (**Acts 2:17-19**); it leads into the Bowls of Wrath period when nuclear heat will raise water vapor to high altitudes where it will congeal into very large hailstones which will fall as a rain of destruction. These hailstones, as they fall, will be mixed with the fire from continuing nuclear explosions and with the blood of multitudes who will be slain. The great explosions and fire descending from above are the same as that brought down by the beast of **Revelation 13:13**. It is the fire from what man shall place in the heavens and shoot into the air.

The primary and earliest application of the first Trumpet's sounding is to the land of Israel. Serious war, leading to limited use of nuclear weapons, will engulf the land well before the opening of World War III. Because all nations are not initially involved, we are to understand the one-third in the context of the Lord's Tabernacle geometry. It was in three portions. The outer one-third is used to connect with either Christendom and its 30-fold major constituency, or modern Israel and the Jews who still reject Jesus Christ, or both. Within the nation, the green grass refers to the rank and file citizenry of lessor significance and the trees to men of importance. Their being consumed is a description of their being made ineffective, either through being killed or becoming militarily ineffective (as prisoners of war or wards dominated by a foreign power). As this Trumpet continues to blow, eventually one-third of the nations (trees – **Jdg. 9:7-15, Isa. 44:3-4, Lk. 6:43-44, Jude 10-12**) are devastated. Almost all those inhabitants of the earth still in their carnal ways (green grass represents carnal flesh – **Isa. 40:6-7, I Pet. 1:24**) will be scorched or burned by heat or radiation, in one way or another, all except those protected by God, sealed with God's "name." Those who are under the Covenant seal of their God do not come under the symbolism of the green grass. The fact that over one billion of earth's people will die because of nuclear explosions does not mean only this number of earth's inhabitants will be destroyed. There will be many other types of destruction taking a heavy toll of life.

It is not necessarily important to have a precise date or some spectacular event to signal the initial blowing of each Trumpet, though these are not excluded. If one is watchful and alert, and if one has the Scriptures hidden in his heart, he will be able to tell from the "tone" of world developments which Trumpets are blowing. The more prepared a person is in God's Word, the earlier he will understand when each one started. The more practice a person has had in listening as the Lord speaks to Him through His Word, the stronger will be the Holy Spirit's confirmation that the Trumpets have started blowing. Understanding is a result of such regular and consistent practice.

### The Second Trumpet

:8 The warning announcement of the second Trumpet is that of a great mountain, blazing with fire, being cast into the sea. A mountain in Scripture is a type of nation or kingdom (*Isa. 2:2-3, 64:1-3; Rev. 17:9-10*); thus a great mountain would be a great or leading nation in the earth. Which nation on earth is great enough to fulfill this description? This greatness of which the Scripture speaks is not equated with size or land mass, neither with the numbers of the people. It would be a formerly "Christian" nation, because judgment first falls on the Church. And it would be one of the great nations because it has had the opportunity to make good, but has ignored it. Here is shown an important nation burning with fire, a nation erupting into a state of civil war. This is not just strikes strife, disorder and gang warfare, but full scale war between the militia and the populace. A specific nation, nominally Christian, is being pictured here, but still it also becomes a type representing other Christian nations. Others will also experience a measure of the Second Trumpet's judgment. The United States of America is also a great nation, but even if this Trumpet pictures another nation, both the USA and Canada will also experience the development of the whirlwind of civil war coast to coast. And their dead shall cover the land, unburied (*Isa. 5:25*).

Why will the USA, so great in its Christian tradition and ability to give direction and example to the entire world, be subjected to the whirlwind? It is written that to whom much is given, much is required (*Lk. 12:47-48*). What other nation has been so blessed in scientific achievement and accomplishment in the undoing of the burdensome toil that man has known during millennia of time? What nation besides America has received as great an understanding and enlightenment from the Word of God through many movings of the Spirit of God to bless untold thousands? But America has failed miserably in her stewardship; therefore, she shall be judged severely. It shall be a judgment arising from within her own borders. America shall not escape destruction from outside; many bombs and missiles shall fall upon this land later; but the primary judgment will be the turmoil and unrest arising from within, plunging the nation into a whirlwind of confusion and strife.

As for the great mountain being cast into the sea, the "sea" is a type of masses of people in agitation and revolution (*Isa. 57:20, Rev. 17:15*). Already there are signs of this turmoil and unrest evident in many places and segments of society, for the Trumpet of judgment as already been blown, and the inevitable falling of this great nation, and others, into a sea of revolution is now in its initial and/or preparatory stages.

:9 As an aftermath of the great mountain's fall, one-third of the sea becomes blood, and one-third of the creatures in the sea die, and one-third of the ships are destroyed. The sea, or waters, is a type of peoples, while ships are a type of local administrations which are in the midst of the sea of peoples. We are not limited to one application here, but the one-third should be connected with the Lord's Tabernacle geometry and the Jews are still a set apart portion, as are the 30-fold "Christians" in the nation. Already we see several "Christian" nations permitting some of the same developments in socialism that led to Hitler's power in Germany. There is laxity in dealing with demon-crazed people, and the leaders are too greedy to bark the warnings so the people will know of approaching danger (*Isa. 56:10*). Look for "Nazi-type" uprisings lashing out at the Jews, to exterminate groups who are then blamed for the world's woes (especially when the economy takes a dive).

In the broader application, a third part of the people of the great mountain nation shall be embroiled in such serious conflict that they will become a menace to the very life of the nation. The legitimacy of governing bodies, represented by the ships, will be questioned by groups too large to control. They will be so completely overwhelmed that law and order will be utterly disrupted in many areas, causing a chaotic condition unprecedented in the history of the nation. Violence will erupt in many places as strife and unrest increase among the masses of the people. One out of three persons shall be involved, one way or another, in such violent disruption that the very existence of the nation will be threatened. Then shall come the necessity to clamp an all-powerful dictatorship upon the inhabitants of this land, with absolute controls on every facet of life; but unprecedented civil strife will continue amid increasing peril from without. Only a great spiritual revival in certain parts of the nation will keep it from being completely inundated by the waters of internal turmoil. Truly, a once great nation shall fall into the "sea" of conflict, and it will mean the end of an era. Already, some nations have begun to experience such unrest and disappointment with their administrations. We will also see conflict with administration goals in the USA when an economic depression spreads.

The great mountain that is to be cast into the sea was burning with "fire." Fire is a type for the people's inflamed passions which will possess them, the unrequited and insatiable burning obsession in multitudes of lust, greed, jealousy, and hatred which will put class against class, race against race, employee against employer, people against government, people against religion, and people against one another in one mad orgy of lawlessness and violence. This will be the direct result of the moral and spiritual decay which has been eating away at the vitals of the nation for many years. The "flames" will be continually fanned by subversives well entrenched in almost every segment of society.

A third part of the creatures died, which were in the sea and had life. The sea not only pictures masses of people in turmoil, but water, whether in the sea or otherwise, also symbolizes the human soul, its emotions and desires are as unstable as water (*Jms. 1:6-8, Jude 13*), when uncontrolled by reason and righteous judgment (*Gen. 49:3-4*). The creatures of the sea typify the entire gamut of emotions and desires which "swim" in the human soul. Usually an emotion or desire does not have "life" unless it is stimulated or stirred up in one way or another, but when made "alive," such emotions and desires have great power to bring about either evil or good. The picture presented is one of base emotions and desires being stirred up

or made "alive" for producing harm and destruction; thus they become potential killers of the peace and well-being of others. Here is the meaning of the statement that one-third of the creatures, which had life or were made alive, died. The only way an emotion or desire stimulated into life can die, from a carnal perspective, is to be exercised until its strength is spent. So will it be to a once great nation which has lost its moorings, and to a people no longer anchored to the faith of their fathers.

### **The Third Trumpet**

: **10** With the blowing of the third Trumpet, a great star falls from heaven onto the rivers and fountains of waters, upon that which feeds the greater bodies of water. Since waters are a type of people, the picture shows the very leaders and fountainheads of society being affected by this star, called wormwood. This star, burning as a torch and giving out its own light, is best represented by the communist (and/or world socialism) scourge with its spiritual and demonic origin. Its light is that of false idealism which masquerades as true light (*II Cor. 11:14*), but it is indeed a deception and a counterfeit. It is Satan's pattern to present an external appearance of immense good for all men. But when men are hooked, the other part of the program becomes clear. Peace and plenty for all on earth, but only if all (no exceptions) will cooperate. And "cooperate" means being completely subjugated. Because of its idealism, though deceptive, it is almost always the educated classes, the leaders of society, who first fall under its influence and succumb to its propaganda. This is why the star is seen falling upon the springs or fountains and upon the rivers which eventually reach the larger bodies of water. The masses of people are reached with the deceptive philosophy of communist and/or socialist type systems only because the educated classes first embrace it in its propaganda phases.

Once such indoctrinated leaders gain control in a nation or among a people, the idealism, which was so prominent in their thinking during the initial contact with such ideology, begins to fade. Then the latent lust for power, subtly embedded in every unregenerated person, begins to raise its ugly head. Especially is this true among those who are taught, as communists are, that there is no God. Without God, expediency and often unrestrained license replace truth and moral values. The result is Godless tyranny and ruthless suppression of freedom. Then it is that the "wormwood" phase of the star is seen. Wormwood is a bitter plant that grows in the desert. The waters which become bitter represent the inevitable aftermath of a such a takeover. That presented as the ultimate in idealism and emancipation for the people becomes instead a bitter experience when promises do not materialize, and the lot of the people becomes more desperate than ever. Truly it is bitterness in the waters, or souls of men (*Jer. 9:11-15, 23:13-15*).

That one third of the waters become wormwood, indicates that one third of the population of the world will come fully under the bestial scourge through the takeover of governments by leaders who are completely sold out to such ideological conspiracies. Most other nations will also be affected by such ideas as communism, socialism or globalism in its propaganda and/or revolutionary phases, but not completely taken over. Yet because of fear, almost all nations will seek an accommodation with such systems in one way or another; and because of tremendous internal pressures, most nations will submit to coalition governments, with such ideologues playing instrumental roles in the life of the nations, thus creating instability and



continuous strife. The expansion of the one-third to include all segments of society is supported by the previously stated principle of broader application. The one-third can be seen to include 30-fold Christendom and Jewish people who still reject Jesus Christ. Of all believers in God, these are the most subject to be taken by communist, socialist, or globalist ideals.

The “strife” phase is seen in the statement that many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter. Many who resist such takeovers of their nations shall die for their efforts. The falling of the “great star” from heaven symbolizes the fact that such philosophies are of supernatural origin. Such emanate from the invisible realms of satanic dominion, and are built upon spiritual wickedness in heavenly places (*Eph. 6:12*). It is the result of satanic influence and deception, and it leads to ruthless suppression of freedom – and destruction.

### **The Fourth Trumpet**

**:12** Developments under the first Trumpet are later to affect all the inhabitants of the earth with the unleashing of nuclear destruction. The second Trumpet has its fulfillment in almost immobilizing a leading nation. The third Trumpet warns of the certain and complete overwhelming of the one third of the inhabitants of the earth by the power of the Beast. And another portion of the human race is affected by the blowing of the fourth Trumpet. The fourth angel has already sounded the initial blast, and the stage is being set for the complete fulfillment in the days that are ahead on the continent of Europe. During the period of the fourth Trumpet’s blowing, one third of the sun, one third of the moon and one third of the stars are smitten so that a one-third part of each is darkened. It will be exceedingly dark when the forces unleashed by the fourth Trumpet take their toll. The sun, as the source of light, is a symbol of Christendom – the only agent God has to bring illumination (*Ps. 19:4-5, 84:11*). The one third of the sun being smitten indicates that the portion of the Christian world, having its stronghold in Europe, will be darkened as revolutionary forces rise up there to destroy the traditional forms of Christianity so long entrenched in the life and culture of the people.

None will escape the forces of darkness, neither Catholic nor Protestant bodies, as these forces rise up to put out the light of the sun and also to strike at the moon and the stars. It is not only the “sun” which will be affected, but the moon and the stars will be darkened also. The moon gives the reflected light of the sun and so is here a type of the state, which reflects or gives support to the state churches. The stars are the leaders in both church and state who will feel the impact of these forces of darkness rising up against them. The church-state combination, entrenched in Europe for centuries, will be completely disrupted and the sun, moon and stars will be darkened to the extent that the church-state relationships, both Catholic and Protestant, will no longer be tolerated. Even the Vatican organization may be forced to flee. Violent forces will rise up within the nations of Europe to completely overthrow the existing system of things; and the “stars,” those in high political or religious offices benefitting from the church-state relationships, who have long had favored positions in the existing systems, will be cast out of their privileged places, even more completely than is now happening.

The one third of the day being withdrawn and also one third of the night should

have more than one application, as does most of Scripture. The Lord spoke of the period of working in His Father's business, beyond age 12, as His "day of 12 hours" – 21 years ending with His crucifixion (*Jn. 9:4*). The one third of this day would be seven years, at the end of which the light would merge into darkness and darkness into blackness. Since most of Europe is no longer known for its strong stand on the plan of God, the darkness would apply to intensifying deterioration in the political, business and social environments. But also, the Lord uses a day for a year (*Ezek. 4:6*). The one third of this day is four months. From other passages of Scripture, we can understand that World War III will go very badly for the Christian nations – until Jesus Christ steps in to reverse the trend (*Matt. 24:22*). The one third of the day and one third of the night, in this reference frame, would indicate four to eight months of serious setbacks, intensifying into almost utter defeat by the Beastial-led bloc. Loss of hope among all not familiar with the Lord's plan would intensify the blackness. And of course, there would be the literal blackouts now typical of war conditions.

The day and night also provide a double witness. The double witness into the night as well as the day indicates the extremity of the events and intensity of the forces which are now rising to bring these things to pass. There is the one-third for the "day" people, the upright of the State Church and the upright non-believers. Also, there is the one-third for the night people. The children of the day will be kept from shining, but also, the children of the darkness will not be permitted to do their thing to obtain what they desire.

:13 After the fourth Trumpet has begun to sound, an angel flies through the midst of heaven warning and proclaiming three woes to the inhabitants of the earth because of the Trumpet blasts which three more angels are afterward to sound. The angel warns of the intensity of turmoil and conflict then to be added with the blowing of each successive Trumpet. The intensity of the now developing world crises is a result of that which is being unleashed during the blowing of the fifth Trumpet.

## REVELATION 9

(Trumpets 5-6)

### The Fifth Trumpet

1-2 It could be argued that with the turbulence of the 1960's, the hosts of Satan began to swarm out of the pit where they have been confined. This swarm was not the very beginning of increased demon population on the earth; God has been limiting the activity of demons in the world lest man would be corrupted beyond measure. But now He is progressively loosing the forces of the pit in order that traditional Christians may be tested in a way that has never happened before. We are in the preparation for the final stages of God's plan for the climax of the ages. He is also making ready His heavenly army to contend with the forces of Satan which are gaining free access to the minds and hearts of mankind. The closing of that army with the enemy will bring about the final scenes of the ages-long battle which has been raging since the time of man's fall.